

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2004
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Ray Stevens, Chair
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Bob Workman
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

COUNTY TREASURER (603)

Present were R.J. Nuernberger, County Treasurer; and Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer.

Nuernberger gave an overview of the budget, noting a significant increase in rent and an upgrade of an Account Clerk I position to Accountant.

The Board requested: 1) A projection of cost savings if more employees opted to have direct deposit of paychecks; and 2) The status of the Village of Hallam's bond payment.

FAMILIES FIRST FOREMOST (F³) (060)

Present were Sheryl Schrepf, F³ Director; and Jessica Pendleton, Director of Finance.

Sheryl Schrepf, F³ Director, gave an overview of the budget, noting the following:

- The State has asked F³ to enter into a one year contract, with a termination clause, for Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) evaluations since Medicaid is not prepared to assume the function at this time. Revenue will offset costs.

- Project management is shifting from grant activities to Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) activities.
- Nyla Helge, System of Care and ICCU Director, has resigned her position. She will not be replaced, but a resource development position will be created, at a lower salary.

In response to a question from Heier, Jessica Pendleton, Director of Finance, said Object Codes 3404 (Memberships & Dues) and 3406 (Enrollment Fees) relate to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant.

Schrepf requested reconsideration of the rent increase, pointing out that F³ paid for \$50,000 in improvements to Trabert Hall.

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, addressed indirect costs and said there may be an adjustment of the County Attorney's costs (\$140,348.86). He said \$133,000 was built into the budget.

Pendleton said \$850,000 of the \$2 million reserve is related to the ICCU contract and the remainder is carryover for the seventh year extension of the federal grant.

Schrepf said she is working a proposal to the State on how to use cost savings from the ICCU and a Medicaid "carve-out".

Schorr requested clarification of an item with Object Code 3076 (Other Contracted Services) on Page 18.

Schrepf said the contracting agency had not been determined at the time the budget was prepared. Lighthouse has agreed to serve in this capacity.

WEED CONTROL (064)

Present was Russ Shultz, Weed Control Authority Superintendent.

Russ Shultz, Weed Control Authority Superintendent, gave an overview of the budget.

Brief discussion took place regarding cemetery maintenance with a request for a map identifying rural cemeteries and those that Weed Control maintains.

The Board also asked Shultz to document calls for service within the City and to provide Kroeker with a list of unpaid special assessments for weed abatement.

COUNTY CLERK (602)

Present were Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk; Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk; and Tim Genuchi, Accounting Operations Manager for the County Clerk's Office.

Tim Genuchi, Accounting Operations Manager for the County Clerk's Office, gave an overview of the budget, noting a decrease in data processing costs due to implementation of the new payroll system.

Brief discussion took place regarding indirect costs, including the number of transactions related to the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Program (Exhibit A).

DISTRICT COURT CLERK (621,751)

Present were Sue Kirkland, Clerk of the District Court; and Simon Rezac, Administrative Aide II.

Sue Kirkland, Clerk of the District Court, gave an overview of the budget. She said she had asked to attend two national conferences this year and would like to delete one from the budget request. This will reduce the budget in following areas: 1) Reduce Object Code 3201 (Meals) by \$220; 2) Reduce Object Code 3202 (Lodging) by \$592; 3) Reduce Object Code 3203 (Fares) by \$420; and 4) Reduce Object Code 3406 (Enrollment Fees & Tuition) by \$400. A total reduction of \$1,632. Kirkland also noted an error in the budgeted amount for Object Code 1055 (Overtime) and said it should be reduced to \$2,000.

Kirkland said she would like to pay Nebraska Bar Association and Lincoln Bar Association dues (\$300 and \$50 respectively) for Linda Sanchez-Masi, Chief Deputy Clerk of the District Court, and for her attendance at Bar Association workshops (\$100) (see Page 8).

Kroeker explained that the County has not paid dues unless membership is a requirement of the position.

Kirkland said it is not, but said she believes it is beneficial to have Sanchez-Masi active in the bar association.

Hudkins said one solution might be to adjust Sanchez-Masi's salary to cover the cost.

Board consensus was to eliminate bar association dues for Sanchez-Masi from the budget and to round Object Code 3406 to \$1,000 to cover the increased cost of Sanchez-Masi's attendance as a non-member at Bar Association workshops.

Simon Rezac, Administrative Aide II, gave an overview of the Mental Health Board Budget (Agency 751), noting \$25,000 is budgeted for Object Code 3057 (Consulting Services).

Kroeker said \$12,070 has been spent in this category, as of April 30, 2004.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to add special reports from Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, and Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, to the agenda. Heier, Hudkins, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, appeared and said the Governor does not plan to call a Special Session to address valuations in relation to catastrophic damage caused by the May 22, 2004 storm and tornado.

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, appeared and reported that the Highway Patrol, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Guard are pulling out of Hallam, Nebraska. He also reported on volunteer efforts and said the Command Post will be left in place as long as needed.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to consider, as part of Emergency Management's budget request, the purchase of a new, or good condition used, motor home for use in emergencies.

Eagan cautioned against taking action on an item that was added to the agenda.

Heier said his motion stands.

Schorr suggested that Heier make an informal recommendation to Ahlberg.

Hudkins said he believes there is a need for an expanded line in the budget for a deputy director.

Ahlberg said a larger emergency operations center, mobile command post (fifth wheel trailer) and capital outlay items are higher priorities.

AMENDMENT: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to amend the motion to: 1) Indicate a fifth wheel trailer, rather than a motor home; and 2) Direct Emergency Management to prepare a revised budget to reflect the prioritized items.

Stevens spoke against the motion and said there will be an opportunity to review Emergency Management's budget before the County and City adopt their budgets. He added that he is not in favor of "generic" additions to the budget and would want to know the cost impact.

Kroeker noted that Emergency Management's budget will be presented to the City-County Common on June 7, 2004.

No action was taken on the amendment.

AMENDMENT: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to amend the motion to direct Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, to bring forth a revised budget reflecting his priorities in light of recent activities, and to do so in a manner so that highlights can be presented to the City-County Common at the June 7, 2004 meeting.

Ahlberg said he can have the figures ready by June 3, 2004.

Heier called the question.

ROLL CALL ON THE AMENDMENT: Heier, Hudkins and Workman voted aye.
Schorr and Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED: Heier, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Schorr and Stevens voted no.
Motion carried.

HUMAN SERVICES (837)

Present was Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator.

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, presented 2004-05 Budget Request - Human Services Administration (Exhibit B), noting increases in salary, benefits and other contractual services to reflect the addition of Corey Steele, Juvenile Detention Expediter. She said Steele attends one conference each year which is reflected in Object Codes 3201 (Meals), 3202 (Lodging) and 3203 (Fares). **NOTE:** The County has asked the City to share costs associated with the Juvenile Detention Expediter position.

Boesch also gave an overview of Special Project Requests (see Exhibit B).

COUNTY ASSESSOR (605)

Kroeker said he has not received revised figures from the County Assessor's Office regarding Temporary Services (3091), Lodging (3202), Enrollment Fees & Tuition (3406) and Licensing (3407).

OTHER BUSINESS

Heier suggested that the Board look into long-term disability insurance costs.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Workman, Stevens, Schorr, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk